ON PAGE

 l_I

WASHINGTON POST 19 June 1983

<u>Nicaraguan Bares P</u> Discredit Foes

By Don Oberdorfer and Joanne Omang Washington Post Staff Writers

The recent expulsion of three U.S. diplomats from Nicaragua was the product of a two-year plan, authorized at high levels of the leftist Sandinista government in Managua, to discredit democratic opposition forces there through a web of false accusations, according to a former official of Nicaraguan state security.

The former official, Miguel Bolanos Hunter, said he was in charge of surreptitiously filming American diplomats as part of the

plan and participated in meetings on the operation that were presided over by Lenin Cerna, director of the Direccion General de Seguridad del Estado (DGSE), the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry's department of state security.

Bolanos, 24, who led a 60-man guerrilla unit in the final battles that brought the Sandinistas to power in 1979, defected from Nicaragua six weeks ago by hijacking a light plane to Costa Rica. He has

provided an unexpected intelligence bonanza for the very U.S. agencies he worked against for the last three years.

Bolanos had served briefly after the Nicaraguan revolution as special assistant to the Sandinista army chief of staff, Joaquin Cuadra

From January 1980 until his defection May 7 he was an official of state security, nearly all of that time a counterintelligence-case of-

ficer with special responsibility for surveillance of U.S. Embassy and CIA activities in Nicaragua.

Since leaving Costa Rica about three weeks ago as part of an arrangement with the U.S. Embassy there, Bolanos has been debriefed extensively by State Department and CIA officials.

Access to him was offered to reporters for The Washington Post
by State Department officials, whoarranged for meetings with Bolanos
at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Washington
Post reporters interviewed him
there for 13 hours late last week,
with no questions barred.

Various independent sources here and in Central America confirmed Bolanos' identity, though it was impossible to obtain confirmation of the details he provided of the secretive and influential internal security apparatus in Nicaragua.

Bolanos' account includes detailed information about the presence and role of Soviet, Cuban, Bulgarian and East German advisers and assistance in the Nicaraguan security apparatus.

The defector said their presence is extensive, with two high-ranking Soviet officers and a Cuban officer assigned as advisers to the 35 Nicaraguans in the counterintelligence section where Bolanos worked.

He said many more such advisers worked with other Nicaraguan military and security forces.

CONTINUED